

Message Text

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12

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STR-01 TRSE-00 FEA-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FRB-03

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RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 TAR-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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TREASURY:JJOHNSON (INFO)

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R 072258Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL AND GSP

REFS: (A) STATE 21088 (B) TEL AVIV 718 (NOTAL)

1. ON FEB. 5, ISRAELI EMBOFF EVEN-ZOHAR CALLED ON DEPTOFF
TO DISCUSS FORM AND SUBSTANCE OF ASSURANCES GOI PLANS TO
SEND USG WITH VIEW TO OBTAINING ISRAEL'S DESIGNATION AS
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BENEFICIARY OF U.S. GSP.

2. EVEN-ZOHAR INDICATED EMBASSY'S READINESS TO SEND LETTER REITERATING SUBSTANCE OF ASSURANCES AND STIPULATIONS CONTAINED IN NOV. 1, 1974 TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS. EMBASSY ALSO WOULD ADD ASSURANCES OF GOI READINESS TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN MTN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS, AS GOI HAS DONE IN THE PAST.

3. DEPTOFF ADVISED EVEN-ZOHAR THAT NOTE RATHER THAN LETTER APPROPRIATE FORM OF COMMUNICATION. ALSO, UNLESS GOI INTENDED ARGUE THAT TARIFF REDUCTIONS NOT NEEDED TO OFFSET ADVERSE EFFECTS OF PREFERENCES, IT WOULD SEEM TO SERVE MUTUAL INTERESTS FOR GOI TO INDICATE SPECIFICALLY THAT IT PREPARED TO ENTER INTO EARLY CONSULTATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS (NOT NEGOTIATIONS) WITH VIEW TO REACHING AGREEMENT ON SUCH TARIFF REDUCTIONS AS MAY BE NEEDED TO ELIMINATE SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE EFFECT OF PREFERENCES.

4. EVEN-ZOHAR ASKED WHEN U.S. WOULD BE READY TO BEGIN CONSULTATIONS AND WHETHER THEY MIGHT NOT BE PART OF MTN. DEPTOFF EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT TARIFF REDUCTIONS NEEDED TO MEET SECTION 502(B)3 OF TRADE ACT COULD BE NEGOTIATED IN MTN CONTEXT AND IMPLEMENTED PRIOR TO JAN. 1, 1976. ACCORDINGLY, BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS APPEARED OFFER BEST APPROACH. U.S. IN ALL LIKELIHOOD SHOULD BE READY TO BEGIN CONSULTATIONS BY LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH, PARTICULARLY IF CONSULTATIONS HELD IN WASHINGTON. DEPTOFF THOUGHT AMOUNT OF TIME NEEDED FOR MTN PREPARATIONS AND ATTENDANCE AT MTN MEETINGS COULD MAKE DESPATCH OF INTERAGENCY DELEGATION TO ISRAEL SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT.

5. DEPTOFF WELCOMED EMBASSY OF ISRAEL'S PREPAREDNESS TO GIVE ASSURANCE THAT DESIGNATION OF ISRAEL AS DEVELOPING COUNTRY FOR GSP PURPOSES WOULD NOT EFFECT GOI'S PREPAREDNESS TO ENGAGE ACTIVELY IN CONTRIBUTING TO SUCCESS OF MTN AND OTHER PROGRAMS. STATUS OF USG CONSIDERATION OF ISRAEL'S ELIGIBILITY AS DEVELOPING COUNTRY, ABOUT WHICH GOI INFORMED (SEE REFTEL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A, PARA 5), NOT RPT NOT DISCUSSED.

6. EVEN-ZOHAR SAID EMBASSY WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN GUIDANCE FROM JERUSALEM RE NOTE AND PROPOSED INCLUSION OF MORE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE ON TARIFF REDUCTIONS. KISSINGER

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